

NSC BRIEFING

CONFIDENTIAL

19 December 1960

IRAN

- I. In Iran, the Shah is planning to hold new parliamentary elections beginning in late December.
- A. The haste with which preparations are being made and the lack of electoral reform, which even the Shah has publicly recognized as necessary, may result in the same kind of wholesale rigging which forced the Shah to suspend elections last August.
- B. Although the Shah claims he will allow a choice between at least two candidates for each seat, it is unlikely that local authorities will refrain from manipulating the outcome.
- C. A new electoral fiasco would again throw Iranian politics into turmoil, and possibly lead to a crisis comparable to those of the Mossadez era.

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